

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05017 061623Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----091834 061625Z /41

O P 061532Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5436
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5017

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS USDEL SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, LE, IS, PLO, SY
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON - ADF PERSPECTIVE

REF: (A) BEIRUT 4932 (NOTAL), (B) DAO BEIRUT IR 6 857 0097 77
(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ADF COMMANDER SAYS PALESTINIAN COMMITMENT
TO IMPLEMENTATION OF SHTAURA III IN SOUTH LEBANON IS
UNCHANGED. FIRST DEPLOYMENT OF LEBANESE ARMY TO
SOUTH NOW EXPECTED OCTOBER 12. END SUMMARY.

2. POL OFFICER CALLED ON ADF COMMANDER LT. COLONEL
SAMI KHATIB OCTOBER 6 TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATE OF
ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SHTAURA AGREEMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05017 061623Z

IN SOUTH. KHATIB HAS BEEN IN ALMOST CONSTANT CONTACT
IN RECENT DAYS WITH GOL AND PLO LEADERSHIP AND VISITED
DAMASCUS OCTOBER 4-5.

3. LEBANESE ARMY MOVE SOUTH. KHATIB SAID CURRENT
PLANNING WAS TO BEGIN DEPLOYMENT OF LEBANESE ARMY
ELEMENTS TO SOUTH IN FIRST PHASE TO MARJEYOUN AND

KHIAM, AND TO ESTABLISH OUTPOSTS AROUND THEM, BEGINNING OCTOBER 12. SECOND PHASE WILL BE DEPLOYMENT IN AND AROUND BINT JBEIL ON OCTOBER 14-15. THIRD PHASE WOULD BE ALONG COAST AT TYRE AND NAKOURA, BEGINNING OCTOBER 17. KHATIB EXPLAINED THAT INSERTIONS WOULD BE EASIEST IN MARJEYOUN-KHIAM AREA BECAUSE PALESTINIANS THERE WERE REGULAR AND DISCIPLINED UNITS. MOST DIFFICULT, AND THEREFORE LAST, PHASE WILL BE ALONG COAST, WHERE FATAH WILL HAVE TO JAWBONE WITH REJECTIONISTS, LEBANESE LEFTIST MILITIAS, AND LEBANESE ARAB ARMY REMANENTS.

4. KHATIB SAID PRESIDENT SARKIS HAD BEEN CALLING HIM FREQUENTLY TO EXPEDITE BEGINNING OF MOVEMENT, AND IS ANNOYED AT POSTPONEMENT OF ORIGINAL MOVEMENT FROM OCTOBER 8 (REFTEL B) TO OCT. 12. (EMBOFF ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.) KHATIB SAID THAT LEBANESE ARMY AND ADF LEADERSHIP WANT TO ASSURE THAT MOVES ARE SMOOTH AND WITHOUT PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE. HE SAID THAT, WITHIN THIS CONTEXT, THEY WERE MOVING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. KHATIB WILL BE MEETING WITH LEBANESE ARMY COMMANDER KHOURY AND PRESIDENT SARKIS ON OCTOBER 7 TO PLAN FURTHER DETAILS OF FIRST MOVES.

5. PALESTINIAN COMMITMENTS. KHATIB SAID THAT PLO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 05017 061623Z

LEADERSHIP AS WELL AS SYRIAN GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP WERE FULLY COMMITTED TO MOVEMENT OF ENTIRE PALESTINIAN YARMUK AND QASTEL BRIGADES, INCLUDING THEIR HEADQUARTERS, TO SYRIA. THEY WILL MOVE FROM SOUTH TO SYRIA VIA RACHAYA, WHERE THEY WILL DEPOSIT THEIR HEAVY WEAPONS. THEY WILL TAKE THEIR INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS WITH THEM TO SYRIA. (KHATIB SAID SYRIANS WERE ORIGINALLY RELUCTANT TO LET PALESTINIANS KEEP LIGHT WEAPONS, BUT EVENTUALLY AGREED.)

6. PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS FROM REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE SOUTH WILL RETURN TO THOSE CAMPS. FIGHTERS FROM REFUGEE CAMPS NEAR BEIRUT AND IN NORTHERN LEBANON WILL LIKEWISE RETURN TO CAMPS FROM WHICH THEY CAME.

7. CONTROLLING THE REJECTIONISTS. KHATIB NOTED THAT PFLP HAD RECENTLY STATED PUBLICLY IT WILL NOT WITHDRAW FROM THE SOUTH. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THIS WAS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE IRAQI SUPPORT TO PFLP, BUT THAT REJECTIONISTS WOULD IN FACT GO ALONG WITH WITHDRAWALS. HE SAID FATAH REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO KEEPING PFLP AND OTHER REJECTIONISTS IN LINE,

AND ADDED THAT ADF HAS "STRANGLEHOLD" ON PFLP NORTH OF THE "RED LINE," AND WOULD USE IF IF NECESSARY.

8. ILMAC. KHATIB SAID HE THOUGHT MOST FEASIBLE WAY FOR LEBANESE DELEGATION TO ATTEND ILMAC MEETING AT NAQOURA WOULD BE VIA LEBANESE ARMY HELICOPTER. (HE SAID LEBANESE ARMY CURRENTLY HAS 5 OR 6 WORKING HELICOPTERS.) HE SAID LEBANESE ARMY COMMANDER KHOURY AND G-2 JONNY ABDO FEARED INCIDENTS IF THEY TRAVELED SOUTH BY ROAD. KHATIB WAS UNSURE WHETHER FIRST ILMAC MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE TODAY (OCTOBER 6) OR OCTOBER 7. (SEE SEPTELS.)

9. CHRISTIAN "LEBANESE FORCES" IN SOUTH. KHATIB STRESSED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 05017 061623Z

IMPORTANCE OF U.S. AND ISRAELI ROLE IN RESTRAINING MAJOR HADDAD'S FORCES IN THE SOUTH. HE SAID THAT CONCEPT WAS FOR PALESTINIANS TO EVACUATE THEIR VARIOUS LOCATIONS SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE ARRIVAL OF LEBANESE ARMY ELEMENTS, AND HE WAS APPREHENSIVE THAT CHRISTIANS AND/OR ISRAELIS MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE GAPS.

10. KHATIB SAID THAT IN LAST FEW DAYS SYRIANS WERE DEMANDING THAT PALESTINIANS IMMEDIATELY ABANDON AAICHYE (ON "RED LINE" NORTH OF MARJEYOUN). PALESTINIANS HAD APPEALED TO HIM TO INTERVENE WITH SYRIANS, POINTING OUT THAT THEY HAD BEEN IN AAICHYE FOR A LONG TIME AND A WITHDRAWAL NOW WOULD UPSET OVERALL WITHDRAWAL PLANS.

11. OVERALL, KHATIB SAID HE WAS VERY CONFIDENT THAT WITHDRAWALS WOULD BE COMPLETED IN SOUTH WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, ALTHOUGH THERE WOULD BE INCIDENTS. HE ASKED THAT U.S. BE UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFICULTIES AND DELAYS WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY OCCUR. HE SAID, ONCE KEY POINTS WERE CONSOLIDATED, LEBANESE ARMY WOULD FAN OUT AND "ROLL UP" DISIDENT ELEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH, PARTICULARLY ALONG ISRAELI BORDERS, WHERE ARMY WOULD ESTABLISH UNBROKEN CHAIN OF CONTROL.

12. (PRIOR TO MEETING WITH KHATIB, CALTEX REP IN LEBANON (AMCIT) CALLED EMBASSY TO REPORT THAT SYRIAN GUARDS AT MEDRECO REFINERY AT ZAHRANI NEAR SIDON HAD WITHDRAWN.) IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S REQUEST, KHATIB INQUIRED INTO THIS, AND REPORTED LATER THAT SYRIAN UNIT AT REFINERY HAD BEEN MOVED SHORT DISTANCE TO CROSSROADS WHERE ROAD INLAND FROM NABATIYEH JOINS COASTAL ROAD. REFINERY WILL HENCEFORTH BE COVERED BY MOBILE PATROLS. REDEPLOYMENT IS UNRELATED TO POSSIBLE MOVES IN SOUTH. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 BEIRUT 05017 061623Z

LANE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PEACE PLANS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT05017
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770365-0062
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771089/aaaacxnc.tel
Line Count: 176
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 275a8d35-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 4932
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1016905
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON - ADF PERSPECTIVE
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, LE, IS, SY, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/275a8d35-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009